

To the Commissioners:

I used to work in the public affairs departments of several American radio and television stations back in the days when broadcasters were required to address community concerns, take ascertainties, keep a public file, respond to comments, and air news, PSAs and editorials. It was a pain in the ass but station management did it because it was a necessary part of the license renewal process. Since 1981 when the FCC changed into a rubber-stamping agency we have seen a decline in broadcaster responsibility, a rise in public alienation, a sinking of quality programming, and the dangerous consolidation of corporate media. There is a connection, and a danger, in having so much power, and so much control of information, concentrated into the hands of people who no longer need to be responsive to those who consume their programming. Broadcasters need government regulation -- not control of content, but an insistence that they operate in the public interest over the public airwaves. Not only must the FCC deny any further consolidation of media corporations, but the seven rule must be re-asserted, cross-ownership prohibitions reaffirmed, and the monopolies broken up. Only in this way can the free flow of information be restored to the public, and competition increased in the marketplace. Respectfully submitted,  
Nat Segaloff